



## **MIKE'S NEW HOBBY STUDIO**

Last year our new Brady bunch family moved to a big beautiful house here in Tallahassee, Florida. I said good by to my old hobby studio where I had spent countless hours over the past 18 years building models and writing scale modeling books and articles. Our new home did not really have a room that I could transform into my hobby room so I temporarily set up shop in the sun room. While I could build, I had to set up and take down everything from using my lathe to airbrushing. There was an unfinished room above the garage that served as a storage area for all the stuff from our combined homes that we did not need and over the past year we slowly went through this stuff and it shrank to the point where I could reorganize it and clear out half the area so that I could begin planning a new hobby studio. There was much to do and slowly over a period of four months my new hobby room took shape!



The first construction step after clearing out the area was to pull up the existing 3/4 inch plywood flooring so that I could add R-19 insulation. My hands were a bit sore after pulling out all those nails!



The floor insulation was installed face down and I stapled the edges along the sides of the floor joists. I then carefully nailed the floor sheathing back down.



I wanted to expand the flooring to one side of the truss work so that I could use it for storing my unbuilt model collection. Here the insulation has been added and the wiring has been moved to the extreme end of the floor joists.



I carefully cut sections of 3/4 inch plywood and form fitted them into place around the truss work. I also built the small wall which I had to construct twice before I got it straight and level because the trusses were slightly off center.



Next I framed out the window wall so that I could add foam sheet insulation and then the wallboard. I also added extra nailing lips to every other truss so that each wallboard seam would have a 3 inch nailing lip.



I then framed out the new wall, added an exterior door and added framing for the window air conditioned which will keep my new man cave cool! Everything was screwed together with 2 & 3 inch heavy duty screws.



Once all the framing was completed it was time to insulate the ceiling and the walls. I used R-30 for the ceiling and R-11 for the walls.



The existing window wall was insulated with several layers of 3/4 inch foam insulation. Once the insulation phase was complete I started adding the wallboard to the ceiling and then the walls.



My sons Tom and Greg helped me position the wallboard and I used screws to attach the sections to the framing. I carefully measured and cut so that the joints would be tight. Unfortunately the ceiling joints had some gaps!



I added small sections of 3/4 inch pine strips to the left and right sides of each opening between the trusses so that the small sections of wallboard would be securely screwed into place.



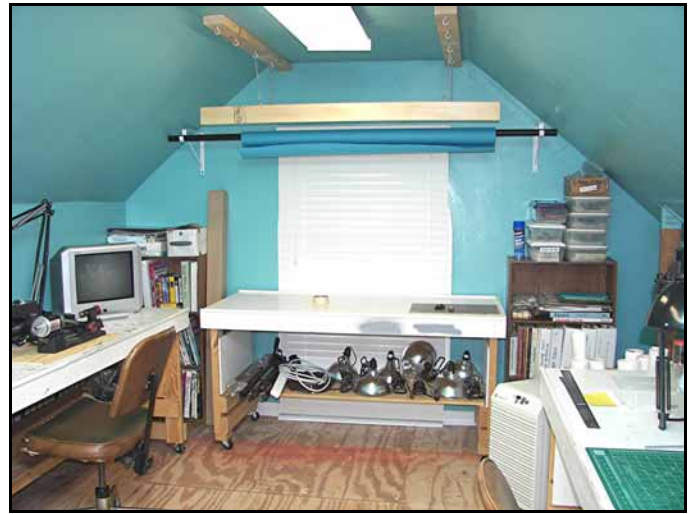
It took some time to carefully measure and cut each section of wallboard and then form fit each piece into place to get a tight fit. Adding wall mud to all the seams was a real challenge.



I added fiberglass mesh tape to the seams and corners and then gave them 2 coats of mud. I added the trim work and then I diluted the mud a bit so that it would flow better and I applied it to the entire surface of the ceiling and the walls.



So mike where did you get that color paint! Well everyone it was free and besides I like the color! I added new ceiling light fixtures and then I started to move in my scale model collection and my equipment!



The blind was added to cut down on the sunlight heating up the room. The photography station has a pull down blue backdrop and I can also change colors very quickly.



This is my lathe station which can also be moved out of the way if I need the table for building large ship models. Note that all the work benches have casters so that they can easily be rolled around.



My airbrush station discharges outside the room. All I need to do is add foam board sides to box off the area under the vent hood to concentrate the air flow.



Here is my construction station with all the bins of equipment within reach. The four desk lamps come in handy when I am working or photographing assembly sequences or techniques.



All that's left to do is add an area rug. My wife Leah has taken up the challenge of finding a rug that will fit. It took 4 months to complete my new hobby studio and it was a labor of love. Now I can get back into scale modeling!